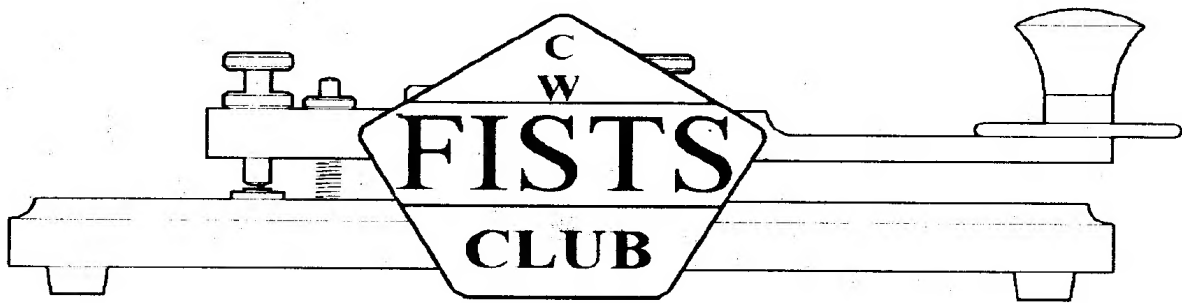


The Keynote

Newsletter of FISTS CW Club, the active chapter of the
International Morse Preservation Society

"Accuracy Transcends Speed"



- Further the use of CW
- Encourage newcomers to use CW
- Engender friendships among members

"When You've Worked A FISTS, You've Worked A Friend"

HOW DO I...

...ORDER CLUB SUPPLIES? Irene WO8E 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr. Clinton Twp, MI 48038 has gold logo stickers, 200 for \$5; Blue enamel/gold metal clasp-back logo pins \$3.50; Cloth logo patches 3" octagon shaped \$1.50 Rubber stamps with the FISTS logo for use with an ink pad (not included) for \$5. "I Support KNOW Code" buttons for .75 FISTS Logo mugs are currently out of stock. These prices DO include first class postage.

...GET AN UP-TO-DATE MEMBERLIST? The list is printed in the KeyNote twice a year and is also on the Web page. A printed updated list may be obtained by sending \$1 (to defray costs- it's 10 pages long) to Ed N7CFA 2628 Lilac Street, Longview WA 98632. Corrections to Ed at n7cfa@kalama.com

...GET ON THE FISTS ON-LINE Email LIST? Send your Email address with your name/call/ FISTS number to blafont@tir.com

...GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via BURO? Stan K4UK, with the assistance of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club handles FISTS QSL bureau. Sort your outgoing FISTS cards by call area, and mail to K4UK, 1020 Long Island Dr, Moneta VA 24121. To receive cards you may have waiting at the bureau, send K4UK a few SASEs. QSLs will NOT be sent to you unless you have sent in an SASE or made arrangements with Stan. His Email is stanreas@rev.net

...RENEW MY KEYNOTE SUBSCRIPTION? Send a check/M.O. made out to FISTS for \$15/year to Nancy WZ8C POBox 47 Hadley MI 48440. **What's the Family Plan?** All CW folks at the same QTH can belong to FISTS for one subscription fee of \$15. You will each have your own FISTS number, but only one Keynote will be mailed per address. Student rate = \$10 if not in a Family Plan.

...SPONSOR A DX FISTS? DX FISTS have a separate block of numbers; their Keynote is mailed from Geo G3ZQS. Send their info to Geo 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwen Lancs, BB3 2LZ; he'll send them a DX application.

...HAVE AN APPLICATION OR NEWSLETTER SAMPLE SENT TO FRIENDS? Send their address Joe K5HLR 29 Melrose Dr, Marrero LA, 70072. Pse enclose \$1 if sample Keynote is requested. An application is also available, in text format, for downloading on our Web page <http://www.FISTS.org>

...APPLY FOR THE CENTURY or WAS AWARD? Send a list of contacts (call, FISTS #, date, band) and power used to Joe N3LBC, 222 E Bertsch St, Lansford PA 18232. Don't submit QSLs. There is no charge to FISTS members for the regular Century Award. If you are applying for the Golden/Diamond Century or the Platinum, send your request directly to HQ in England (119 Cemetery Rd, Darwen Lancs England BB3 2LZ) including sufficient return postage.

...VOLUNTEER FOR or GET A CODE BUDDY? send your requirements and info to John W9EM, 34020 N. Hickory Ave, Grayslake IL60030. Email to w9em@aol.com

...SHARE COMPUTER SOFTWARE? Joe WZ8U 5428 Bolander Grand Blanc MI 48439

...GET MY PHOTO ON THE PHOTOPAGES? Send a snapshot of yourself to Ken W8ROG 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr. Clinton Twp, MI 48038

...GET A COPY OF FISTS PRESENTATION Contact Joe KK5NA at KK5NA@quadj.com or 3618 Montridge Ct, Arlington, TX 76016. Let him know the date and approx number of attendees.

...FIND THE WEB PAGE? <http://www.FISTS.org>

...SUGGEST IDEAS FOR THE WEB PAGE? Contact Bill KK4KF at bjmyers@arc.net

...ORDER FISTS CLUB QSL CARDS? send SASE to WX9X at 354 West St, Valparaiso IN 46383

...ORDER A FISTS CLUB ID BADGE? Our club badge is dark blue, with FISTS logo in gold and your name, FISTS number, callsign and "Int'l Morse Preservation Society" in white. They are \$6.95 post-paid from The Signman of Baton Rouge 879 Castle Kirk Dr, Baton Rouge LA 70808; email nv5a@aol.com

A non-engraved, laminated club badge is available from Bruce Eichmann W2BE, 204 E. Lake Blvd, Medford NJ 08055. Cost is \$4.75, NJ residents \$5.00 because of tax.

The Keynote is published approximately monthly by Nancy Kott WZ8C, P. O. Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047 Email: nancy@tir.com WZ8C reserves the right to edit submissions for space, clarity and topic suitability. Comments not attributed to another are written by WZ8C. Articles from The Keynote may be reprinted if credit is given to the original author.

North **KEYNOTE** American

Slow Traffic Net: Tuesday & Thursday 9pm EST on 3.682
Slow Ragchewing Group: W8BI 8pm EST Wed on 3.720
Century Award Net: Sunday 1900Z (1500est/edt) on 14.058MHz
Saturday QSO Groups: 14.058 at 2000Z and 7.058 at 2300Z
Sunday Slow Speed Chat 21.158MHz at 1700Z

Please keep watch on the Novice Bands and frequencies ending in .x58

Accuracy Transcends Speed

Courtesy At All Times

Hello FISTS! Geo, G3ZQS, also known as Father FISTS takes the month of May off from writing a Keynote because he's busy flying across the Pond to attend the Dayton Hamvention (paid for out of his own pocket, not FISTS funds, in case you were wondering!). This means I have extra pages to fill up this month.

I thought I would take this opportunity to make this a sort of reference issue, with applications for FISTS, our North American awards, Code Buddy program and whatever else I can think of.

We experience the largest increase of our membership this time of the year, the Hamvention has been very very good to us. Many thanks to the Hamvention and the Dayton Area Radio Association for their continued generosity in giving us the booth space. We really do appreciate it.

With the rapidly growing membership comes confusion, and I'm hoping that this issue will help sort out some of the questions. If you have a question about FISTS, don't hesitate to write to me or any of the people listed on the inside front cover. For example, if you have a question about supplies that isn't covered by the brief "How Do I..." contact Irene WO8E. A question about the FISTS presentation program? Joe KK5NA can answer your questions. If you write via the postal service, please include an SASE.

If you have access to the Internet, our Web page is very comprehensive and contains more detailed information that I can print here every

month. The URL for the Web page is <<http://www.FISTS.org>>. I'm always available by writing to POB 47, Hadley MI 48440 or email at nancy@tir.com.

Your suggestions and contributions to the newsletter are always welcome. I try my best to print as much as I can. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who contribute regularly, like John Shannon who's QRP column is very popular and Arnie KT4ST for sending us a Walt's World cartoon for our mailing page. Walt is such a cutie! I hope you enjoy his trials and tribulations as much as I do.

By the time you read this, our popular Spring Sprint will be history. I hope you enjoyed it and will send in your log, even if you only made a few contacts. Believe me, every log counts! It lets us know how many people actually participated and your comments help us steer the activities in the direction the majority want.

We'll have our "regular" booth C-15 at the Hamvention May 15-17, so please stop by and say hello. I promise I won't put you to work if you really don't want to! Our Friday night get together is at The Crowne Plaza, I hope you can stop in. We'll just have munchies and a cash bar, so fill up at the QRP banquet then make your way downtown and meet some fellow FISTS!

I hope you find this issue informative -- See you in Dayton! -73, Nancy WZ8C, FISTS N.A. Representative

Welcome to the New FISTS

It may not seem like a lot of newbie this month, but I'm getting this to the printer by May 4, so we've only had about two weeks since I printed the list in the last KeyNote.

The DX FISTS are using the 4800 block of numbers, so that's why we skip from 4799 to 4900.

Callsign Name Number Sponsor State

KB6HWG	Dick	4756	KB7SVA	WA
AB2BK	Len	4757	W9DEW	NJ
W7VH	John	4758	KS7J	CA
NB4DN	Jim	4759	AF4BD	TN
KS4TD	Bob	4760	K4BX	TN
AC4YW	Bill	4761	WB0YPO	FL
WA4CMI	Craig	4762	webpage	VA
W8BDR	Del	4763	W9DU	AZ
WA3VAT	Wayne	4764	WA8BIJ	MD
VE3DAO	Roland	4765	VE3KLM	ONT
N4BNO	Rod	4766	WB2FXK	NC
KB7FYZ	Joe	4767	K7FD	OR
KQ0A	Harvey	4768	AA0YY	GA
VE3DFV	Godwin	4769	N4ZMP	ONT
AC5NX	Chuck	4770	W8XP	OK
WF1M	Bob	4771	WB1FL	MA
AE4IN	Steven	4772		AL
VE7MMH	Mike	4773	N6RNP	BC, Can
K4PJO	Mike	4774	KC8BD	VA
N1NX	Guy	4775	AI9L/AF9H	ME
KF4VWZ	Henry	4777	WB2FXK	VA
KB2JWD	Jim	4778	WB0CFF	NC
KC5YUU	Eric	4779	W9LUY	MS
K8AGO	Ray	4780	K5HLR	MI
W5CHH	Brian	4781	K1AA	TX
KB9SAA	Rick	4782	K1ERB	IN
WA4RD	Roy	4783		FL
N1YTV	Greg	4784	K1MBX	ME
KQ6LW	Dave	4785	AD6EF	CA
WB6CMZ	Lon	4786	KC8GOJ	CA
WD8EHW	Fred	4787	KA4 CLM	WV
KF4VXW	Ken	4788	N9BOR	TN
W7RQ	David	4789	K8JD	AZ
KB8UTC	Arthur	4790	KC8BOJ	OH
KE6QF	Lorin	4791	KS7J	CA
VE9PJS	Phil	4792	webpage	NB
N4LP	Emory	4793	WB0CFF	FL
NO8V	John	4794		MI
W2DHT	Bill	4795	NO8V	NY
VE6TIB	Ted	4796	WB2FXK	AB

Callsign

Name

Sponsor

State

KD7BAB	Dave	4797	WA6SBB	NV
W1GAX	Ernest	4798	AI9L	
WA4NBY	Dick	4799	K7VZ	FL
AF4JD	Ralph	4900	webpage	TN
N9ZTZ	Martin	4776	N5LF	IL
KC2ACK	John	4901	KB9MZK	NY
AA5OZ	Randy	4902	WB2FXK	LA
W0BQH	Harold	4903		SD
KN4NO	Greg	4904	N1WLC	SC
W6HPK	Steve	4905	KF6DCU	WA
KE6HDS	Gene	4906	K7GT	CA
KB0PTE	Wayne	4907	webpage	MO
K0WQ	Tony	4908	K0HHB	MO
KB1CFB	Ron	4909	N2ZHF	CT
VE9VIC	Rino	4910	KG8UM	NB
WJ7H	Wayne	4911	W1LIC	UT
W1VXW	Bob	4912	KC8GOJ	MA
W9BOK	William	4913	K5HLR	WI
WA6VVL	Dave	4914	WA6SBB	CA
N9TKS	Charles	4915	AA9BO	IN
WA2HOQ	Bob	4916	KF4JRO	NJ
K5MWR	Dave	4917	KJ5ZR	CO
W4WSB	Tom	4918	K5HLR	GA
KD5CRI	Ben	4919	N9NVV	MS
WD8NES	Jim	4920	W6DDB/AC6TO	OH
WA9YYF	Ed	4921	W1LIC	IL
N4TKP	Stephen	4922	K5HLR	FL
AA8YD	Doug	4923	N6WU	OH
K6RKB	Bob	4924	webpage	CA
N4MYY	George	4925	webpage	VA
WB4CHK	Dave	4926		FL
KB1CHH	Ken	4927	KI0KM	CT
W6MMG	Alex	4928	WA0FGV	CA
AF4BA	Charlie	4929	KT4YY	NC

Call Changes

#3460 Jim AA9OU is now N9NT
#3982, Gary K6WN is now W6GA
#2398 Dave KF6DCU is now AD6FA
#3549 Nick, N3YVW, is now N0NY
#4496 Glenn, KC7ZMP is now KK7NB
#2934 Joel N7KOJ is now N7LF
#4570 Denny KF6NJQ is now AD6EZ .

Corrections

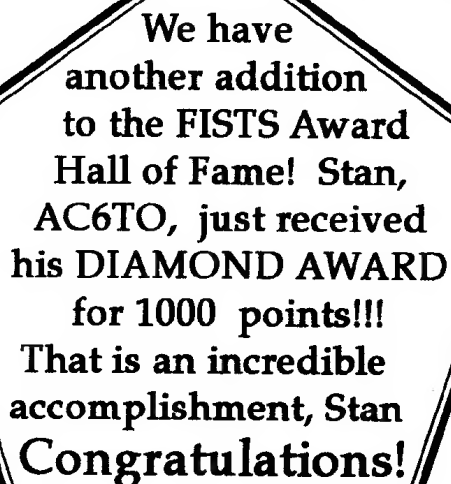
#4718, Don, should have been **K9UQN**, not **K9UQ**.

Congratulations!

To Chuck **WA8UCS** on his upgrade to Extra!
To Dave **AD6FA** on his upgrade to Extra!
To Glenn **KK7NB** on his upgrade to Advanced and passing the 20 WPM code!
To Joel **N7LF** on his upgrade to Extra!
To Steven **KB9OLD** on his upgrade to General!
To Lafe **KD7AVK** on his upgrade to Tech Plus!

Photopage Winner

Kermit **W8LFJ**, #1794 is our Photopage winner for May! Kermit wins a FISTS supply package consisting of a patch, pin and FISTS logo stickers just for sending in his photo for our photopages. You, too, can be a lucky winner in our monthly computer generated drawing. The winner is chosen from all who have sent in a photo. Each month is a new chance to win, so send your photo in today to Ken **W8ROG** at the address on the How Do I page!



We have
another addition
to the FISTS Award
Hall of Fame! Stan,
AC6TO, just received
his **DIAMOND AWARD**
for 1000 points!!!
That is an incredible
accomplishment, Stan
Congratulations!

Virginia Ham Antennas

Matt **KE4UKY** sent a copy of the recently passed bill SB-480.

"An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 15.2-2293.1, relating to placement of amateur radio antennas. [S 480] Approved

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 15.2-2293.1 as follows:

15.2-2293.1. Placement of amateur radio antennas.

Any ordinance involving the placement, screening or height of antennas shall reasonably accommodate amateur radio antennas and shall impose the minimum regulation necessary to accomplish the locality's legitimate purpose.

In localities having a population density of 120 persons or less per square mile according to the 1990 United States census, no local ordinance shall

(ia) restrict amateur radio antenna height to less than 200 feet above ground level as permitted by the Federal Communication Commission or

(iia) restrict the number of support structures.

In localities having a population density of more than 120 persons per square mile according to the 1990 United States census, no local ordinance shall

(ib) restrict amateur radio antenna height to less than 75 feet above ground level or

(iib) restrict the number of support structures. Reasonable and customary engineering practices shall be followed in the erection of amateur radio antennas. This section shall not preclude any locality, by ordinance, from regulating amateur radio antennas with regard to reasonable requirements relating to the use of screening, setback, placement, and health and safety requirements.

FISTS Feedback

SPRINT: Contest or Casual?

Comments from Bill VE3HQ: Nancy, I agree with your "compromise" comment to K8KFG - FISTS are devoted to the use, and encouragement to the use, of CW. If we are going to be so competitive in contesting, that we just blow by everyone without so much as a "Tnx gud luk", then I don't want to be in the contest, es I don't think we are going to encourage any new members by brushing them off JUST because we are in "contest mode!"

Let's not forget, FISTS is the Morse preservation society, not the Morse "best score" society. We as FISTS, should remember to be..

F riendly (to all)

I nformative(there ARE new hams out there)

es S low

T o

S peed (let's encourage..we ARE Fists)
at all times, INCLUDING contests. If you're playing for money..count me out, if you're playing for fun...count me in...if I happen to win..that's a bonus!

I agree with you 100% Nancy, during contests we don't have to exchange the wx es the rigs etc., but can at least be friendly es enjoy ourselves. I like to think "when I've worked a FIST - I've worked a friend!" .. whenever that may be! That's why I joined! 73

From Don W9DEW: I'd like to comment about Garie's K8KFJ thoughts about the FISTS Sprints. I understand his point about "In some circles that the Sprints should be approached as more of a social event than a contest." You know, he is right!

Perhaps we are guilty of misrepresentation. But rather than change the nature of the event, I would like to suggest we change the name to something more appropriate. Maybe we call it the FISTS Spring "Endeavor" or "Adventure" or something else more descriptive.

I'm having a little fun here and I hope that Garie and everyone else understands that, but my real point is that your comments are "right on the money". We can have the best of both worlds here: "Be friendly, competitive, and have fun at the same time."

Being a FISTS to me means that you put courtesy, mentoring, and friendliness ahead of victory and winning. There are plenty of contests where winning is everything, but FISTS contests (or events) should not be a "zero sum game". In every contact, there should always be TWO winners! That will not al-

ways happen, but that should be our goal.

Lastly, my Elmer's advice, "This is a hobby, it is supposed to be fun" always implied to me that whenever it wasn't fun, I was taking something way too seriously. I'd like to hear what other FISTSs think our role in the world of contesting should be. Thanks & 73 to all.

By the time this hits the mailboxes, the Spring Sprint will be history - send in your comments about contesting vs contacting when you send in your logs. I'll ask Tom, the Sprint manager, to forward them to me and I'll put them in an upcoming Keynote.

I think that it would be fun to have a new short contest which would have a "go for it" atmosphere. All speeds would be welcome - but just a quick exchange - maybe callsign, FISTS number, serial number. No multipliers, just rack up the FISTS contacts. What do you think? Any name suggestions? How about The Winter WhirlWind!

From Bill VE5HQ: The Keynote contained some new procedures for setting up a Bug not mentioned in the training manual, es I was very pleased to see it. Some ops can really make a bug "swing", es it is a pleasure to watch es listen to, but I think the average op finds a bug quite frightening to work with.

Have heard some bugs being used, es it is difficult trying to copy. For the most part, the dits will come ripping along abt 40 wpm...pause...then, along comes a dah or two abt 5 wpm..supposedly in the same character. Not an easy machine to "drive" for most ops...myself included...so any help and advise is much appreciated. Big thing in running a bug is to get coordination between the dit es dahs so they mold into the characters es words smoothly, and that comes with PRACTICE..PRACTICE..es more PRACTICE.

BUT practicing an improperly set bug will really discourage any would be "buggers"..(can I say that?)...SO, articles on set up are great! A good op on a properly set bug is a real pleasure!

I found "Adjustment of and sending with a bug" on the Web at <fohnix.metronet.com> -it did make a difference! There is stuff in there on telegraphy that is quite good, including lots of "bug" stuff.

I have been a ham for 1 1/2 years es do 99% CW, but I learned code the wrong way --I know what the characters look like..and am still "deciphering". This has kept me at abt 13 wpm good copy. Can pick out all at 20+, but because I am in "think" mode for most part - can't keep up. I'm just hearing, but not know-

ing. Therefore, the article on "How to go about it efficiently", by Bill, N0HFF, is good material. The best advice he gave was, "Never try to analyze (CW) into parts. This is MOST important!" He is so right. "Learn what it sounds like..not what it looks like!". That way you won't get stuck in the "think" mode.

Another fine keynote - Good Job! Good Club! Good CW! Good Day!...(think I'll give that bug another try..it IS a fun little machine!)73, dit : dit *Thanks for the kind words, Bill! I like to get feedback about articles people enjoyed or benefitted from. It lets me know what I should print more of (assuming I can find more articles on the topics, hi) in the future.*

These comments might be on others minds so I thought I'd share them. From Sam WB5ZJN: One of my most respected amateur publications is WorldRadio. This is because of the content (including my column "Postively CW" WZ8C sez, hii) but also because of the newsprint that is used for printing the magazine. Not only is it less expensive, but is easily recyclable. Many home recycling companies will accept newsprint, but not as many will accept magazines or office paper. Keep the costs down and invest the money in the promotion of CW, and, most importantly, we'll send a message that FISTS is not only interested in preserving Morse code but also our environment. *This version of the Knote IS printed on newsprint. It looks more like real paper because it's "bright" newsprint. If you have an old Keynote around, compare the two and you'll see this one has a smaller page size, not 8.5 x 11. It's printed on a big sheets of newsprint with a "web press." The paper in the old Knote is whiter and thicker. Using this method is a lot cheaper and faster because it doesn't have to be collated and stapled, it's all done in one process.*

I'd suggest that you sign and give your call at the end of all of your opening remarks. With as many new hams joining each month, there are always going to be people who don't know who you are or who is writing the article. Looking only at Vol. XI, Issues 2, 3, and 4 and considering that there are around 350 new members listed in these three issues, it would be very hard for a person to know who wrote the opening statements or who "Nancy" is. Aside from the fact that it is good editorial practice, you deserve the credit! *Thanks for the suggestion, Sam. I didn't think of that. In the HOW DO I page I have a comment that any remarks not credited to others are written by WZ8C, but I would bet most people don't read the fine print and would be left wondering!*

ISSUE 5 1998

From Dan W0BXS/6: Unaccustomed as I am, etc. etc...I just could not resist commenting on Issue Number 2, Page 13, by N8UGV. Re: "NO GOOD NO CODES, GO BACK TO CB"

I apologize to him on behalf of all of us who were angered by such a verbal display. Fortunately, as much as much as I have operated on two meters here in the Bay Area, I have yet to hear such idiotic uncouth comments as that.

I am proud to say that a great number of CB converts to ham radio have a greater knowledge of electronics, computers, hardware than a great number of us "oldpharts" that have been around for fifty years plus (like myself).

Whenever I hear a new call I make it a point to send them a QSL card (more than likely the first one they have ever received and welcom to the world of ham radio. I throw in a few good licks for CW. Sometimes by saying "any idjut can buy a rig, and antenna, microphone, polug it inthe wall and talk, but a real ham can take two pieces of wire and beat them together, and send a message when the going gets tough."

Granted, I must be careful and not to offend anyone...so far I have been sucessful, and a lot of previous No-Coders have advanced up the line!

New Subject: The person who gets FISTS number 5000 ought to get an "attaboy"!

New Subject Number Two: I would be delighted in hearing from Ex_ASA Operators (Army Security Agency, or National Security Operators.) Like we used to sing in the old days:

Three dits

Four dits

Two dits

Dah,

We are the men from the signal cah!

Fort Monmouth, For Monmouth!!

Rah! Rah!....Rah!

Keep up the vy gud wrk es lng lv CW!!

When you've worked a
FISTS, you've worked
a friend

News And Views From FISTS

Dave AD6FA upgraded to Extra and wants to thank everyone for the encouragement to get his Extra. He says he "...couldn't have done it without FISTS."

Chuck WA8UCS also upgraded to Extra after years of thinking about it, hi! He says getting the Keynote each month gave him the extra kick he needed to get going. *That is just terrific guys! I'm glad to hear that FISTS gave you the moral support you needed, that's what we're here for.*

From Sam WB5ZJN: Congratulations on all the fine work you and your cohorts are doing. Each month, when I read the "Keynote," I am amazed at the long list of new members and the continuing growth of FISTS. Obviously, there is a great deal of interest in CW. I think that this growth and our numbers will have a considerable effect on the future of CW in amateur radio. *As you can tell from the member list each month, we're growing by leaps and bounds. I predict I'll be assigning FISTS number 5000 by the end of the month!*

From Robert KB7AQD: We need to keep using 10M -- even if we are not using CW. The pirates note our lack of activity, and choose this band for chatting. We need to call CQ every day, putting the pressure on these intruders to vacate our bands. Whether 28058 +/- kHz, or the lower end of the CW subband, or the Novice/Tech Plus part -- please put SOME signal on 10M as often as possible. Even if you aren't in a CW mood, talk it up on SSB, AM and even FM simplex (where allowed). We have licenses. The pirates don't.

From Dave VE7DWG: Please renew my membership for another FIVE YEARS. I enjoy the Keynote, very good read. I'm about two years behind on my QSL's including DX - Stay QRL on traffic nets and enjoy sending out traffic messages welcoming new FISTS ops. Not into any kind of contests or wallpaper. 73. *Five years from now...I wonder how many FISTS we'll have by then - mind boggling, isn't it! Thanks for the renewal Dave!*

From Neal AC4DT: My wife and I are moving from our home of 10 years, please change your records to our new address, so I don't miss my issues of The KeyNote. I look forward to reading it each month. I want you to know that in 32 years of being a ham I

never enjoyed it more than since I've been a member of FISTS. *Thanks for the kind words Neal, I hope you and Trudy are all settled in and happy your new home!*

Pat, WL7CKX, Pat's wife redesigned his QSL card. It now has a FISTS Moose on it! *Isn't it cute?*



From Greg AA9DK: CW is still in my opinion our best mode of operation, period! It gets through when other modes do not. The trouble is too many people think it's hard to learn, but we know it's not, because we tried to learn it and did. I really believe most of this is political with the manufacturers pushing it. I mean they're counting the HF radios they're going to sell.

From John VA3JJ: Because of the FISTS Club, this has been a very interesting winter for me, I finally put down the "mike", dusted off the neglected paddle and got down to some heavy practicing,

It sure paid off, as I was fortunate enough to earn the "Century" and "Gold" by winter's end. Also had the privilege of exchanging numbers with "Father Fist" the Second day of activity, It was a great way to spend the cold Canadian winter - hi!

My thanks to the folks who work so hard to make the Club successful, and also to all the FISTS who helped me earn points for the awards.

As a big fan of QSL cards (those Canadian Winters again), I want to thank Stan Reas **K4UK** and the Franklin County ARA for keeping those cards moving along so efficiently. Great stuff! 73.

From Gary **KA2KDJ**: I decided to renew my FISTS membership a little early. Been a fantastic year for me in FISTS. Received my Century Award and even worked the ol man "Geo" **GX0IPX**. I'm now trying for FISTS Worked All States Award. The FISTS QSL Bureau is great. Have a 99% return on QSL cards via the FISTS Bureau. I wish all the hams would join FISTS. Looking forward to another year of FB QSOs with FISTS members. 73.

I'm glad you're enjoying your association with FISTS, Gary and John! Stan and the Franklin County ARA are doing a terrific job with the bureau. It's mind boggling how many cards go thru the system every week. Thanks Stan and the Franklin County ARA!

*Over the last few issues of the Keynote, I really mangled Gerald N4GD's callsign. I think I got it incorrect in three issues in a row! But Gerald has a lot of friends out there who set me straight - one of them is Mike **KB5UUR**: Thank you very much for such a nice newsletter every month. It takes a lot of time and hard work which is probably why your correction on Gerald's call might have been wrong. The Gerald that I had the pleasure of chatting with was N4GD, #1019. BUT maybe this was an imposter, HI. This imposter said he was running a Ten-Tec Century 21, portable, from the banks for Reelfoot Lake in Tennessee. He also said that he was operating next to a boathouse from battery power. He said it was a little cool that day, but he had on lots of clothes.*

Now that I have provided all club members with a brief description and the location of this imposter, we need to organize a Foxhunt and track down this miscreant and bring him to justice. He has also used the disguise of N8GO (in Dec), K4GD (in Feb) and N4DG (in Mar) Keynotes.

Seriously, I received such a nice QSL card from Gerald and we had one of those real gud QSO's when I almost felt as if I was there with him enjoying the nice early Spring weather, that I just had to write a

note to let everybody know that N4GD is a great ham and they should never miss a chance to talk with him.

Tnx again Nancy. I read the newsletter from cover to cover. 73- CUL Mike FISTS #3831

From Paul **W6WOW**:

Please renew my FISTS subscription. I enjoy the Keynote newsletter and support the goals of FISTS. Have had my W6W0W call since 1946, and it's one of few calls that represent letters and numbers, when turned upside down. I would have a distaff call of **MOM9M**, and with the FCC's issuing such strange calls these days, somebody might get that one.

Thanks for printing my poem, "Ode To CW" a few issues back. I did notice that the title was missing but the thought was there, and that is that CW is one of the most reliable communications systems ever devised by man. Let's don't let it get like Rodney Dangerfield who constantly proclaims, "I get no respect!"

In addition to the Morse code, I learned the Japanese Navy's Kana Code during ww II. I have an Underwood Code Machine, which the U.S. Navy called a RIP-5. It has extra keys to accommodate the extra characters of Kana, which believe is 44 compared with our 26 alphabet letters. I'll send you a picture of the typewriter, along with an explanation of the keyboard, or maybe a video that was made, for me, by Fujisankei Communications International, for a program that aired in Japan. They came to my home for the interview, and while I'm only on camera for a minute or so, you might enjoy listening to retired navy captain Forrest Biard tell about the breaking of the Japanese Kana code and the effect that it had on shortening WW I I. *That sounds fascinating, Paul, I'll share whatever you send about that in the upcoming Keynotes!*

From Mark **KC4KFC**: I am the lucky recipient of two very nice amateurs who have gone out of their way to tell me about FISTS. First I met **W4BX**, Frank, on 80 meters around 3.682. We had a great QSO despite my rusty CW. He even asked if he could call on the phone to tell me more. I said "sure! but the phone is dead due to the snow storm...could you try later in the week?" So, Frank called a few days later. He told me about the club, the newsletter, the awards, contests and events. He was very enthusiastic and encouraging.

In the meantime, I met **K4UK**, Stan on about the same

frequency. He also told me how much he enjoyed the club and offered to send some info to me by the postal service as well as through e-mail. Stan also told me about the QSL bureau which he manages. He sent the application I am now sending to you. So if it is at all possible, could I include both members as my sponsor? I would appreciate it very much. *Many thanks to the FISTS who recommend the club to the people they meet on the air! Since we don't advertise in magazines, we rely on friends telling friends!*

From Ken **K6KRD**: Could you tell me where I might find code practice above 35 WPM? Well, Ken, you might try signing up for our Code Buddies program and specify you are looking for practice over 35 wpm. I'll print your address here, if anyone reading would like to have a high speed chat with Ken or know of a high speed on air practice broadcast, pse let him know (let me know about the on air practice times, too, so I can put it in the Keynote!) Kens address is Ken Diekman, POB 188, Rescue, CA 95672.

From Ken **VE6KJL**: Finally made my Century Award and had a QSO with Geo and also DX FISTS member Ray **G3KOJ**. Although I'm not able to take advantage of all FISTS activities, I can always seem to find a fellow FISTS when looking. Truly something for every CW enthusiast. Once again many thanks to all the FISTS volunteers and take care. 73

From Bill #1430: Here's my renewal for another year. I'm finding more and more FISTS members on the bands. Just like 'family'!
That is so nice to hear! I like to think of us as one big CW family!

Code Buddy Success Story from Bruce **KD7ATJ**:

I got my first copy of keynote, and just had to write to you and tell you about my experience in ham radio so far. I first started studying in January of 98. I passed the written exams for novice, tech, and general plus my 5 wpm code the third week in February, and got my call sign March 2, 1998.

After a couple of days, a couple of ham friends called me on 40 meters and we sent some code back and forth at about 3 wpm, and low and behold, I fell in love with Morse code (actually I guess its conti-

mental code). So I attacked the airwaves searching for victims, and I managed to find a few who would actually slow down enough that I could copy them. I quickly learned how to send QRS 5. In fact, I got so good at it I think some people thought my call sign was **KD7ATJQRS5**.

It was frustrating as even when I'd scratch out, in what was obviously horrible code, that I was a beginner, most people would slow down to about 15 wpm and want to rag chew. Then they would throw in U, UR, CUL, 5NN instead of 599 like it said in "Now You're Talking", and I was lost.

Then, the great CW god smiled on me...twice. First, Mark **N6MNZ** sent me one of my first QSL cards and mentioned that if I liked CW I should check out the web site for a club called the FISTS club. So I did, and I joined. Then lightning struck...I found **GUS KA7MGM**, or actually, he probably found me.

Gus was only the second or third guy I had a QSO with where he actually slowed down to where I could copy more than one out of five letters. He was slow, clear, and gave me his e mail address. After our first QSO I got an e mail and he offered to help me out with my study of code. If I wanted, he'd meet me on 3.685 and practice. I figured that wouldn't last long, as I was really slow, and he was obviously very good.

It wasn't until a couple of weeks later that I found out that he was a FISTS member, or that he found out that I was. Since that first QSO he has spent anywhere from a half hour to an hour and a half virtually every night for weeks now practicing with me.

I have to tell you, that I'm in the Rotary club, I was in Lions club, and I've been active in numerous other organizations, and in all my experiences, I have never met anyone as patient, kind, and helpful as Gus. I've never met the guy, and yet, after only a few weeks, he seems like a dear friend. This FISTS member should be put in the Code Buddy Hall of Fame, and you, and the rest of the FISTS members, should be exceptionally proud that your (our) organization includes someone like Gus. We're still at it, and I fully expect to pass my 13 wpm test, if not the 20, in June.

I'm sure that coordinating the Buddy program must be a lot of work, so I wanted to let you know how one new ham feels about the job you, the FISTS club, and especially Gus are doing. 73s Bruce, **KD7ATJ**
Thanks for sharing your story Bruce - Gus is a wonderful example of the FISTS philosophy in action. Thanks Gus!

FISTS Code Buddy Program
by John W9EM, Code Buddy Coordinator

This past month I spent some time getting our Code Buddy information into a PC database. All applications are processed. We are currently up to date and do not have a backlog. If you sent in an application and haven't been contacted, please try again. You must have gotten lost in the shuffle. Sorry.

We currently have almost a hundred members that are involved in the program. This includes both students and teachers. The backgrounds and experience are diverse, and the locations are from all corners of the U.S. and Canada, including Hawaii.

Bill Myers **KK4KF**, our webmaster, was kind enough to put a new Code Buddy Application on our website. You can download it and send it to me via e-mail, or print and send it via snail mail.

We have a number of Code Buddy teachers that currently do not have active students. We could also use some additional teachers to cover some portions of the country. So, if you are thinking about getting involved, now would be a good time. You'll have fun, improve your code speed, and make some new friends.

Fill out an application and send it to:

FISTS Code Buddy Coordinator

John Cmiel - W9EM

34020 N. Hickory Ave.

Grayslake, IL 60030-1014

or

w9em@aol.com

FISTS QSL Bureau
by Stan K4UK, Bureau Manager

Just thought I'd send the up-to-date tally. For the period from January through April we have handled 16,468 cards of which 1,524 were for DX. So we've been kept busy sorting and mailing cards.

Quite often we receive envelopes with only a couple cards in them which is no problem for us. However, I think one of the purposes of the QSL Bureau is to minimize the costs of exchanging cards. Generally you can send at least 7 of your cards for 32 cent

I do appreciate all the favorable comments about the QSL Bureau. The SASE approach has made our job easier and we do appreciate the members sending them.

We are asked questions concerning how many envelopes are on file and are trying to indicate after the

number in the bottom left hand corner the total of envelopes received to date. That is, adding "of X", for example: #7 of 9. From this you can determine how many envelopes you have left on file and when it's time to send a new supply. The last envelope on file would be marked #9 of 9, for example. "Last envelope at Bureau" will be written on the flap as a reminder.

Some members have marked their envelopes: #1 of 3, #2 of 3 and #3 of 3. Which may be easier for them to follow. The problem comes about since I don't get cards and envelopes to my helpers immediately. In the period between my receiving envelopes and getting them to the helper, he may have sent out an envelope with an incorrect total on it.

Any suggestions of a better way to identify the number of SASE's remaining on hand would surely be welcome. Or, if the present system works OK, I'd like to know that too.

We have tried to send the oversize cards in the smaller envelopes by using scratch paper and tape. Those DX cards often are just too large for the personal size envelope. In some cases we have cut the front of the smaller envelope off and taped it to the front of a #10 business size envelope to get the oversized card to you without folding it.

We also would appreciate a note from those we send cards to with a letter requesting SASE's who don't want to use the Bureau - so we can send their cards back to the sender.

We still have a few instances of cards coming for non-FISTS members especially DX cards. Remember the Bureau is for handling cards between FISTS members only. Oh, yes once again, if you have had a call change we suggest putting both your old and your new call on the envelope in the upper left hand corner. It sure helps. As an added note, we are sending all V21CW cards to Grant K2ACW in his SASE's.

And, it does help to indicate the FISTS number of the station to which the card is addressed. If we have trouble reading your writing, or heaven forbid you've written the call wrong, we can perhaps track down the proper station by referring to the FISTS number.

Those of you going to Dayton, please give your suggestions to Nancy WZ8C concerning how to improve the QSL Bureau service or include them in a note to me with your next set of cards and/or envelopes.

Welcoming Kids Into FISTS

I've gotten letters from generous FISTS members volunteering to pay the subs for a young Amateur. This is wonderful, we need to encourage younger hams to the CW ranks. Subs for under 18 year olds are \$10 if they don't qualify for free membership under the family plan. The problem is - where do we find these young hams? If you know a young ham who seems like they'd be interested in FISTS but is unable to join because of their finances, have them fill out an application and mail it to me with a note. I'll process them on a first come, first serve basis as long as funds donated for that purpose last.

Does anyone have any ideas on recruiting the ham kids? Thank You to the FISTS who offered to do this, as Paul N6EV says, "we need to support as much as we can the younger, entry level Amateurs who are interested in CW and our great organization."

FISTS Presentation Program

The purpose of the FISTS presentation is to tell people who we are, how the club got started, our activities, our purposes, and hopefully, to dispel misconceptions about the organization or its members. We also tell them about the member accessories program, how the club is funded, and about the popular Key Note newsletter. All you need is an overhead projector and a screen. Delivery time averages just 30 minutes.

This presentation has been given to many groups and it is well-received (die-hard ne-code techs being the only exceptions.) It has generated very favorable responses and a lot of new members. The actual presentation consists of 16 colorful framed transparencies for overhead projector use plus a "script" you can use to deliver the detailed information. These items are packaged with sample copies of the Key Note and a supply of informational brochures.

I receive numerous request via both snail mail and email for copies of the presentation and for more detailed information about its content. I reply to every inquiry as quickly as possible but I can do so more efficiently if I know: 1. Your full name, call sign, etc. Sometimes I get only a first name and email address! 2. Specifically what you want, when you want it, and how you want it sent. 3. The name of the organization for which the request is being made (just for our records). 4. To whom and where the information is to be sent. An important but often-missing item. I

strongly encourage e-mail information requests. Shipment of the actual presentation materials is done via priority mail or UPS with delivery several days before your actual need.

We keep three copies of the presentation transparencies in circulation. So, when you're finished using it, please return it promptly so it can be routed to the next requester. I have a copy of the Presentation in PowerPoint for those interested! Hope this answers most of the questions. But, if you have questions about something not covered here just ask me via email or snail mail. 73, Joe KK5NA

Why I Let My Fingers Do The Talking

by Rudy W8NLQ #4330

Some people think that eating with the fingers is gross. But *talking* with the fingers - now that's for me.

You see, I once was an SSB addict. My poor wife finally concluded that I must be suffering from a mental illness: how could she have thought otherwise when everything she heard coming out of the ham shack speaker sounded like Donald Duck?

Sometimes, to soothe her nerves, I'd switch off the speaker in favor of headphones. But hearing only one side of my exchanges began to disturb her, too. Finally I decided to abandon SSB and try International Morse code.

CW, after living life in the single-sideband segments soon proved to be a remarkably refreshing experience. Strangely, I felt washed and clean. Away from the unholy racket of the quacker bans, CW began soothing my spirit and lowering my blood pressure. I noticed I wasn't drinking as much coffee. How delightful to be able to zero in on your contacts carrier and monitor the particular audio tone most pleasing to your ears! Compare that to an even slightly mistuned SSB transmission. Let it last too long and your teeth are on edge.

I further discovered that when I would shut down the rig and rejoin the family, I felt tingly all over and a lot more alert. Neurologists say that happens because billions of brain neurons must be put to work in order to convert memorized dots and dashes into letters, words, sentences and word pictures. The resultant surge of neural energy can overflow the brain and ear ganglions, affecting the entire nervous system. I vividly recall, as a ship board radio operator,

four hour long watches of continuously copying code signals did not seem to tire me. Only many years later did I understand why.

Some hams say they omit the use of International Morse code, arguing that finger talk is too slow and boring. I find that CW is anything but boring. Unless I choose to work a novice who would like some practice, I can always find an operator with fast fingers and a responsive keyer.

With practice you can go flying along at 30 or 40 WPM and imagine what that could do for your brain cell activity. CW boring? Hah!

Most of us have commenced to talk by the age of two. Later having sufficiently expanded our vocabulary, passed the appropriate amateur exam and chosen our transceiver, we may thereafter forever into Quackerville.

But how much can that improve the mind? Think of having to root through all that noise and nonsense for the rest of one's life. Imagine having to listen to all those coughs, sniffles, snorts, glottal wheezes, sneezes, clacking dentures, throat clearings, unstified yawns, and regional and foreign dialects, - frequently punctuated with expressions borrowed from eleven meters. Yuck!

The way I see it, once you've talked the talk, what do you do to keep stimulating your mind and renewing your spirit? Almost by accident I found I could do it by prospecting on the good old CW bands where I uncovered precious nuggets of magic and mysticism. There is no road rage on the CW bands: all I ever meet are ladies and gentlemen.

When the rig's ready-light is green and the keyer light is red, that's my cue to take off on still another growing experience. And after just one QSO, I *know* I'll be a better operator tomorrow!

RUDY MAXWELL, W8NLQ calls Mount Vernon, Ohio his home. A Navy Radioman during WWII, he served aboard various aircraft carriers in the Pacific theater as Flag Command chief

Returning to civilian life he made radio broadcasting his vocation, first as a chief engineer and then as an account executive. Now 80, he and his wife Violet operate an in-home business featuring Shaklee food supplements.

Although he is an Extra, he has retained his original call sign, issued in 1935. He calls his 30 year old HW-16 his "tranquilizer."

QRP With John Shannon

This month, some more of your questions. I was asked by KA8EGS, via my web site, about measuring power output. When we say we're running 5 watts output, just exactly what does that mean?

Well, when we are talking about RF power, we are referring to RMS or root mean square power. Without getting overly technical, RMS is simply the best way of fitting the varying potential of an AC signal to a pure DC signal. In other words 5 V RMS AC will produce the same effects (heating, whatever) as 5 V DC. The overly technically minded may find this to be an oversimplification.

OK, let's move on. An AC signal varies from a peak positive voltage to a peak negative voltage regularly in a sine wave form. We can measure an AC signal that varies from +5 to -5 volts in at least 3 ways. We could say it's 10 V P-P (peak to peak), or 5 V Peak. The third way is to say it's 3.535 V RMS. This is determined by multiplying the peak voltage by .707. These relationships hold for any pure sine wave RF signal.

That gives us an idea of what RMS is, and how it is determined. Now let's apply that to actually measuring power. I know we all know Ohm's law and all it's variations. The form we are interested in is $P(\text{ower}) = E \times E \text{ (or voltage squared)} / R(\text{esistance})$, since we can easily measure RF voltage and resistance.

Most transmitters have an output impedance (resistance) of 50 ohms so we'll use that for R in our formula. When we feed our transmitter into a 50 ohm dummy load (pure resistance), we can then measure the voltage across that load to get our E value.

There are different ways of measuring this voltage, and you must be sure which way your particular device measures it to be accurate. Perhaps the surest way is to use an oscilloscope. Look at the scale on the scope and measure the voltage from the positive peak to the negative. This will give you P-P voltage. Divide by 2 to

get peak voltage, then multiply this voltage by .707 to get the RMS voltage to plug into the formula. Let's say you measure 44.7 V P-P on the scope. Dividing by 2 to get peak voltage gives 22.35 V. Multiplying this by .707 gives 15.8 V RMS. Squaring this gives 249.64. Dividing by the 50 ohm resistance then gives us 4.99 watts of RF power.

If you have a peak reading meter, of course you would get the peak voltage, multiply by .707 to get RMS, and proceed from there. Some meters are calibrated or set up to read RMS voltage directly. Then it is even simpler mathematically.

I tried to make this kind of a middle of the road answer, not too overly technical nor too simplistic. To sum up, just be sure you know how you are measuring the RF voltage across the dummy load. Is it P-P, peak, or RMS? Then proceed from there.

There are also RF output meters that can read your power output directly. Then it is really simple. Again be sure it is RMS power that they are measuring. If it measures P-P or peak power, for example, then you are cheating yourself. I am not going to do the math, but your 5 watts measured on a P-P reading device will actually be only around 2.5-3 watts RMS power.

Changing gears now - a couple of articles ago I mentioned that I normally don't call CQ FISTS to get my FISTS QSO's. N6MNZ wrote and asked if we shouldn't call CQ FISTS. There is nothing at all wrong with calling CQ FISTS if you wish to do it. It's simply a personal preference, just like I never use /QRP to denote that I am running QRP.

The only time I ever call directional CQ's of any kind or sign /anything after my call is in contests. I find that simply hanging out around the FISTS frequencies and calling a regular CQ nets me lots of FISTS QSO's. Enough, in fact, to have gotten the Century, QRP Century, 2X QRP Century, about 3/5 of the way to the Gold Century, and 1/4 of the way to the Platinum so far.

I usually just keep my latest FISTS membership list handy, and if the person who answers

me is there, I give my number. If not, here's an opportunity to recruit a new member.

Perhaps the most commonly asked question is one that concerns the various QRP kits available these days. Which one is best? What do I think of this particular kit? Which kit is good for a QRP beginner? And so on. A few months ago, we asked for those of you who use one of the kits to write a review of it and submit it for publication. We only covered a couple of kits when that was done, and haven't received anything since.

I am now thinking of adding a page to my web site devoted to the QRP kits with a description of each, where more information can be found about the kit, etc. It will take some time to do that, and I will let you know here in the column when it is done. Or since many of you visit my site often, just check the QRP section for it.

W8GND writes and asks for more information about zero-beating with the various QRP kits. Apparently that is a tricky matter, and I know it varies from kit to kit so it is hard to give a specific answer. However, in next month's column I'll take a shot at it. If you would like to contribute your tips on that matter, Email me at johnshan@alltel.net or regular mail to 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201-1304. And be sure to keep visiting my web site at <http://www.alltel.net/~johnshan>. -30-



NETS

Century Award Net Report

April 19: Brian K8EY/W8BL, NCS; K6FFF Kerry; W8BI, Charlie (big surprise!) K7FD, John; KC5VJU, Jim; KA5AAE, Jim; WA2VQV, Russ; KS6Z, Dan; W7SJH, Ray; N1NGM, Norm (nice signal); N4VEF, Dick; K7FFF, John; WB2HEK, Bart; VE4GEC, Glen; VY2RB, Richard; VA3JJ, John; KB2HZO, Fred.
April 26: Jim KC5VJU, NCS; AC6TO, Stan; W9LUY, Hack; AA9KH, Jay; N1YLA, Bob. *NCS comments:* We sure had a bad band to deal with. I took the net today for Stan AC6TO as he is recovering from his shoulder surgery. He's doing fine but is sure sore and will be for a while as he had torn ligaments and they had to be reconnected. But he's young and tough so will make it ok.

Slow Chat Group

Bill VE5HQ would like to remind everyone that the new Slow Chat Group meets every Sunday on 21.158 at 1700Z. They would love to have you check in and let them know if you can hear them. Becky, KF0GUH, took the NCS on April 5 with one check-in (but her antenna was not doing well). Bill was NCS on April 12 and had four check-ins.

If anyone checking in hears nothing, give a call and see who may be lurking in the woods. Think of it as a FISTS Slow CW meeting spot and have some fun. If you meet up with someone for a QSO on the frequency, please move down or up a bit to free up the frequency for others who would like to use it to make contact. After you finish your QSO, come back to 21.158 and see what's happening!

NCS is only trying to get folks together if conditions allow. Don't wait for someone else to CQ FISTS - if it's quiet, as Steve K3VE puts it, "worst that can happen is I get some practice sending my call sign!" Check in and check it out - - don't give up and don't be shy. FISTS will be on this frequency Sunday, 21.158, 1700 UTC.

Century Club WAS Net

Joe N3PM, #1268 would like to invite FISTS to the 3905 Century Club WAS Award Net. The net meets Mon-Wed-Fri at 2022Z on 7.053. This CW net usually has several states checking in. The Century Club (not affiliated with our Century Award) has several nets, for info send large SASE to WB2RWT. They have their own QSL buro run by AG5T.

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IARU MONITORING SERVICE

This was sent to me by Bill VE3MIQ. He got it from the RAC web page and is available at <<http://www.rac.ca/monitor.htm>> Bill has reported an "Intruder" (on every evening on 7,100,000 Mhz) to VE6JY and got a prompt reply. It is a Voice of Radio Russia station in many languages.

Even though it's long, I thought this might be of particular interest to FISTS who are concerned about pirates - and thought it ironic that the ARRL is making a big to-do about getting the FCC to make our Gentlemen's Agreement bandplan's passed into law. When the IARU can't control a bandplan, what good does the ARRL think it will do by passing more unenforceable regulations?? Sorry about getting on my soapbox, I try not to do that.

The IARU Monitoring service

by RAC's IARU Monitoring Coordinator, Don Moman VE6JY

The International Amateur Radio Union (I.A.R.U.) Monitoring Service is world wide in scope. It was started in England shortly after World War II when it became apparent that many countries were not observing the peace time provisions of International Agreements signed after wartime. Today the problem is just as bad or worse. Some countries do not even observe the treaties and agreements signed by their own administrations. Of particular concern to us are the violations of "exclusive" world wide HF amateur frequencies.

WHAT ARE OUR "EXCLUSIVE" FREQUENCIES ?

10 metres....

28.000 to 29.700 is EXCLUSIVE WORLD WIDE AMATEUR - any non-amateur signal is an intruder.

15 metres.....

21.000 to 21.450 is EXCLUSIVE WORLD WIDE AMATEUR - any non-amateur signal is an intruder.

20 metres.....

14.000 to 14.250 is EXCLUSIVE WORLD WIDE AMATEUR - any non-amateur signal is an intruder.

14.250 to 14.350 is shared with many fixed services (including China and USSR), however "broadcasting" is not a permitted use.

40 metres.....

7.000 to 7.050 is shared equally with the fixed services of many countries, mostly African nations.

7.050 to 7.100 is EXCLUSIVE WORLD WIDE AMATEUR - any non-amateur signal is an intruder.

All other portions of the HF amateur bands are shared

with other services and much care is required to avoid wasting a lot of time and effort reporting stations who are legitimately sharing the bands with us. Obviously, the more "ears" we have across the country, the better our reporting system will be.

RECENTLY REPORTED INTRUDERS

The following is a short list of some of the intruders which have been heard recently in North America :

- 7002.0 kHz Morse beacon "V", probably Russian
- 7039 +/- cluster of Morse beacons, "C", "F" and "S", probably
- Russian 7070.0 shortwave broadcast and interfering warble jammer
- 14000.0 occasional clandestine USB "numbers" broadcast from Europe
- 14152.0 hourly RTTY broadcast, mark-space reversals

Intruders can appear anywhere and at any time, depending on propagation and their own operational requirement to communicate. During periods of reliable propagation, no amateur band is immune to intruders.

WHAT HAVE WE ACCOMPLISHED LATELY?

Some of the more persistent and widely noted intruders that have been removed from our bands in the last year:

- SWBC station Adventist World Radio on 7100 khz - their lower sideband of the AM signal is in exclusive amateur radio territory
- A Peruvian SWBC station near 7150 khz
- Radio Ankara, Turkey on 7100 khz.
- VRQ, 14090 khz, a fixed service station in Vietnam.

FREQUENCY MEASUREMENTS

In order for national and international telecommunications authorities to properly identify an intruding signal, it is important that the frequency of the signal be measured as accurately as possible. Radio amateurs with modern digital receivers can usually "measure" frequencies to the nearest 100 or even 10 hertz, provided that the receiver's calibration has been verified recently. By carefully using some special techniques, even owners of analogue receiving equipment can measure frequencies to these same accuracies. Besides accurately measuring the frequency, it is necessary to follow a standard convention about which "frequency" to measure :

a) For all amplitude modulated signals, such as :

- A1A on-off-keyed carrier (as in "CW" Morse),
- A3E double-sideband with full carrier ("AM", "broadcast", etc.),
- J3E single-sideband ("SSB") suppressed carrier, •J8E independent sideband ("ISB"), and
- N0N unmodulated carrier measure the frequency of the carrier, even though the carrier might be suppressed.

b) For all frequency modulated signals, such as :

- F1A or F1B frequency-shift-keyed (FSK Morse, RTTY, FSK packet, etc.),

•F3C FM facsimile, F3E FM telephony ("FM broadcast"), and

•F7B 4-frequency duplex radioprinter

measure the centre frequency of the emission, that is, half-way between the upper and lower edges of the signal.

c) For complex emissions not covered by the above examples, such as multi-channel and multi-tone radioprinter, and pulsed carrier emissions, such as ionospheric sounders and over-the-horizon HF radars, measure the centre frequency of the emission. (If the centre frequency is actually outside of the hamband, it might be appropriate to add a note about the bandwidth of the signal or that the signal covers from frequency "x" to frequency "y".)

In all cases, if you cannot accurately determine the frequency of the emission, note it down as accurately as you can and add "EST" for estimated. And remember that even though your receiver dial may indicate frequencies to a precision of, say, hundredths of a kilohertz, it may still be in error by several hundred hertz, depending on the calibration of the circuits and the band on which you are operating. It is important to verify the calibration of your dial!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Radio monitors, amateurs and SWL's alike, can assist by reporting intruders. Your report, along with others, will be forwarded to our IARU Region II Coordinator (Malcolm Hamon VE3KXH) and from there steps will be taken to deal with the intruder. In many cases, the methods are long, tedious and time consuming but they do often have the desired result. If no one protests the intruders certainly will not leave, so it is up to us to bring attention to those who are operating outside their proper frequency allocations. Reports should contain the following, as a minimum.

1. Frequency measured as accurately as you can, in accordance with the outline given above.
2. Time, date, duration. Always use UTC.
3. Type of Emission, as detailed above.
4. Identification, details of call signs or programming, things that can help us identify the source of the broadcast.

Signal strength and beam headings are also useful. If you are uncertain of what you are hearing is really an intruder, report it to me anyway. If it is a legitimate use, no harm has been done.

Reports should be sent to ve6jy@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Speaking CW

by Bill W1HIJ

We often hear CW, or Morse code, spoken of as music, as a mode, as a skill. But first and foremost, CW, as we hams use it, is a language. And like any language there are rules, grammar, vocabulary, and even regional accents. My purpose in this series of articles is to provide a sort of primer of those rules.

"Why", you might ask, "do I need rules? I know how to talk. All I have to do is spell the words out." Well, it's not quite that simple. Think about the different ways you talk when you're speaking with someone in person as opposed to talking on the phone, or writing an email message. Each of those media allows and requires a different style. CW as we hams use it is much the same. It has its special styles and limitations, just like any medium.

Over the 100 or so years that the telegraphic codes have been in use, a variety of tricks and tools have come into being to make it more effective, more communicative, as a vehicle. What we'll try to do in these articles is tell you what some of those tricks are, why they arose, and how you can best use them in your regular on-the-air activity.

Before we start with the details, let's look for a minute about the special characteristics that CW has as a communications medium. While these aren't necessarily unique to CW, they do have a big effect on how we should best use it. Three things come immediately to mind.

First, CW is by its very nature slow because you have to spell out words or phrases. In the time it takes to spell out "Hi, nice to meet you again here on forty meters", even at 25 or 30 words per minute, you could say that and a lot more if you were speaking "natural language"

Second, we never (well, hardly ever!) use Morse code in a face to face conversation. How many times have you walked up to a friend and said "dah dah dit dah dah dah dah dah dah dit dit dah dah dah dah dit dah dit ... " etc. Kind of silly. But more importantly, because we don't use it in person, the listener doesn't have the benefit of the visual clues that exist in a personal encounter like smiling to indicate a joke or a tease, gestures to underline something important, or a change in tone of voice for emphasis.

Third, for we hams, communication via radio is frequently an international occurrence. Day in and day out, we exchange pleasantries and detailed technical and other ideas with people who often do not speak whatever language is our "native language".

Because of these characteristics (and others as well) communication by telegraphic codes has developed a special set of rules and tricks to help overcome these limitations, or take advantage of the benefits. They fall into three categories: Operating Procedures and Special Symbols, Vocabulary, and Operating Style.

We'll tackle each of these in turn. But before we begin, a word of caution is appropriate. While there are "rules" and "standard procedures", there is a lot of room for variation (sort of like a southern drawl versus a new England twang). Nonetheless, it's important to know and understand the standards and then use the variations (accents) to personalize your individual style as an operator.

OPERATING PROCEDURES

Think about a conversation you have with anyone... The words you use fill many different purposes. Some are indicative of real content, some are for emphasis, and some are "signals" to the listener that he or she should do something, like respond. In telegraphy, we don't have the same ability to make one word always serve those different purposes. Instead what we have done over the ten decades since Morse code came into being is to invent special "words" or symbols with very precise meanings, always used in the same way.

Some of these you, as regular CW users, already know, some you may not. And some you may know, but not use in the way in which it is really intended because nobody ever told you what that intention was. These special words and symbols are called PROSIGNS, short for "procedural signals". Their main purpose is to indicate and control the flow of a telegraph conversation.

If you think about a regular CW contact that might take place on the bands, there are several things that have to happen for it to be successful communication. The listener needs to know when a particular exchange is starting, so they can listen attentively or so they can sort out the sender's signal from others that might be simultaneously audible. Equally important, the listener needs to know when the sender is finished so they can respond.

There are three special PROSIGNS designed to satisfy these requirements in slightly different situations. The most commonly used is the letter "K". It is usually translated as "go ahead" - meaning "I'm finished sending for the moment, you take a turn". But traditionally, its meaning has another aspect and that

is, "If anybody else is listening and wants to join our conversation, it's all right". So the real translation is "go ahead any station". Now suppose for whatever reason, you don't want the conversation to be interrupted or joined by anybody else. In that case you need a different signal. Here tradition has created the signal "KN", which means "go ahead, only the station I am in contact with."

Here we have to digress a little. Prosigns, no matter how many letters they contain, are sent as though they were a single letter. So when you send the prosign KN, it is sent as "dah dit dah dah dit", not "dah dit dah dah dit". (This is even true of the famous SOS which is sent as "dit dit dit dah dah dah dit dit dit", a single "letter").

OK, so now we've taken care of the end of a particular transmission, how about that beginning part, the sort of "wake up call" that says "get ready, I'm going to start sending something important"? Here there are lots of options. But there is one universally recognized symbol that is the "starting signal". It is the prosign KA (again sent as a single letter with no space between the K and the A). So if you want to be really correct, the first thing you would send whenever you grab that key or paddle is "dah dit dah dit dah". Hams being what they are (a bunch of individuals) other symbols or letters often serve the same purpose. The most commonly used is the letter R usually repeated two or three times. Another one heard a lot is the letters FB sent as two distinct letters and standing for "fine business" and meaning "OK". And finally, there are two other "standard" signals used. One is simply to send the call of the station being worked, the letters DE (French for from) and your own call. The other one is the prosign BK. Of these two, one is acceptable (the callsigns), but the second really has a different meaning which we'll get to later.

So if there are all these options, which one is the best? Answer: it depends. If you want to be really correct then the KA prosign should precede every transmission, whether you send callsigns or not. If you want to be unmistakably understood, regardless of who is listening, then that's the best choice.

So now, let's get to some more specific situations. Suppose this is your last transmission of a contact. Probably the person with whom you've been conversing already knows that (unless the QRM has been really fierce). But what about other people listening? How do they know that you're finished with one contact and may be willing to have someone else call

you? Yup, you guessed it, another prosign. This one is SK. It means "I'm finished with the station I was working." In the days when CW was used on a wide scale for traffic handling, SK meant "end of work" which was just another way of saying "I've sent all the messages I have for a particular station, and am now ready to go on to the next 'work'".

There's one other prosign that is heard a lot and seems to be used with several confused meanings. It is AR. In the old days, it meant "end of telegram". So a station passing traffic would transmit a telegram followed by AR and that meant this is the end of this piece of traffic, but I have more to send. For hams, the meaning is a lot less precise. We use it to indicate the end of a transmission which is not the last transmission of the contact. So you often hear something like "BK TO U K7GT DE W1HIJ AR K. While this isn't wrong, it really doesn't add anything in meaning that the K doesn't already signify. So unless you are sending traffic, or some other kind of discrete message, like a list, there really is no reason to use the AR.

So that takes care of the beginning and end of contacts and transmissions. There is only one additional signal that you might hear in normal contacts. I can't find it specified in any "official" documents (unlike those above), but it has been around for a long I am time and is pretty consistently used. The prosign is CL and is always used after an SK. It modifies the SK to mean "This is the end of my last transmission, and I am closing my station". In other words, I have my finger on the power switch and will not be responding to calls from other stations.

There are two other categories of prosigns, some official, some just created by long and consistent usage. Two of the official ones are SN and AS. SN has the meaning of "understood" or "I understand". So when the other station finishes their transmission and you pick it up, the easiest way to confirm that you heard and understood all the transmission is a simple SN as the second (or third if you exchange callsigns) element after the KA.

AS simply means "wait". As a general rule, it means a short wait, not more than a few seconds or tens of seconds. If you wish you can add a number on to it like AS 2 which means wait for a couple of minutes. But usually it is used the same way that on the phone you'd say something like "hang on a sec". By the way, it's not the same as the Q-signal QRX, but we'll talk more about that in the next part of the ar-

ticle.

Finally, with "official" blessing, there are two other prosigns. **EEEEEEEE** which means "oops, I messed up". Note that there are 8 "E's", but nobody really counts once you get past 6! The other related one is the **"?"**. Technically, assuming it's not really a question mark, it means "I'm going to repeat the last element I just sent". Or as an example: **FISTS NR 3178 ? 3178**

So those are the "official" prosigns. There are some other special ones that are used in particular situations like CW traffic handling, but are rarely heard in common usage. There are some which are heard a lot and while not "official" are so common as to be almost as well understood. You probably know all these, but just for the sake of completeness...**BT**, technically a double hyphen is the all purpose prosign almost. It really has two distinct meanings, but one shades into the other. The first is as a sort of paragraph mark in that it denotes the end of one train of thought and the beginning of the next. So you often hear things like **UR RST 579 BT QTH NR LOS ANGELES BT OP BILL BT**. The second usage is as the Morse code equivalent of "uhhhhh". When you can't think of what to say next, but you don't want "dead air", you send an occasional **BT**.

The second one is an unofficial prosign that re-

places an official one rarely heard on the ham bands. The common usage to reply positively to a simple yes or no question is just the letter **R**. Technically this means "received", but just about everyone uses it as a "yes". The official prosign for this by the way is **C** (for obvious reasons if you speak Spanish), but you hardly ever hear it used that way on the ham bands. The third is **EE**. It's a common way to do a lot of things: acknowledge a transmission (sort of like a short SN), end a transmission (as in **TU EE**) and a whole host of other "unofficial" uses. This one is interesting because apparently it derives from one station sending "dah dit dit dah dit" (shave and a haircut) and the respondent sending "dit dit" (two bits). As Alice says, "It gets curiousier and curiousier". For JA stations, it has taken on the characteristics of the bows exchanged when two people part... fascinating cultural questions here.

So that's it for prosigns, part of the universal language and "flow control" of CW communication. In the next installment, we'll look at Q-signals and abbreviations. What they really mean, how you should really use them, and why they form a communication tool that truly crosses national and language barriers.

In the third part of the article, we'll look at some special situations that have developed their own "prosigns" - contesting, dx'ing, and traffic handling.

CW PROSIGNS

PROSIGN

MEANING

EXAMPLE

K	Go Ahead Any Station (allows for break-ins)	WK6C DE W1HIJ K
KN	Go Ahead -- Only the Station I am in contact with	K7GT DE WK6C KN
KA	Transmission is about to start - Alert signal	KA KF6GUH DE W1HIJ ...
SK	End of last transmission in contact - "end of work"	...SK W1HIJ DE KQ6ES
AR	End of transmission, but NOT last transmission.	...HWCPI?AR AE6TT DE AC6E K
CL	I am closing my station and will not listen for other stations	73/CUL SK AB6E DE W1HIJ CL
SN	Understood or "I understand"	KA KQ6ES DE K7GT SN TNX ...
AS	Wait or "hang on just a second"	... UR RST ASFONE RST 579 ...
EEEEEEEE	Ooops, a mistake	... QTH IS NR LMS EEEEEEEE NR LOS ANGELES
?	Indication of a repeat, "I will repeat the last element I sent"	FISTS NR IS 3178 ? 3178
BT	All purpose separator and "Uhhhh" character	...RST 579 BT QTH NR SF BT OP ALAN BT...
R (also "C")	"received" or "yes"	...COPY OK? BK ... R R BK ...
EE	All purpose acknowledgement or "parting wave"	... COPY OK? ... EE... GUD ... or TNX AGN, CUL EE</bold>

REMEMBER - All multiletter PROSIGNS are sent as though they are single letters --- dah dit dah dah dit, NOT dah dit dah dah dit.

I've always been impressed when someone on the air mentions we've worked - I think, "how'd they know that so quickly?" Odds are they are using a record keeping system which supplements their logbooks. Using a computer to keep track of logging your QSO's is very handy, but not everyone has - or wants - a computer in their shack. Joe, N3PM, designed this 3 x 5 card method and it's worked well for him since 1951! He comments that it is easy to pull out FISTS contacts regardless of call or address changes and is a good source for other awards information. I'm putting a copy of the blank card here, but if you would like another copy or more information on it, please send an SASE to Joe Lovejoy, 545 Bruce Ave, Odenton MD 21113.

callsign		Name		watts	frequency	cw	phone
street address							
city				state		zipcode	
first contact				County:		Country:	
Date	Time	RST	Watts	Worked again on:			
FISTS Number and Remarks							
QSL sent		QSL rec'd					

For specifically keeping track of FISTS contacts, Joe transfers the info to a separate card, which looks like this:

FISTS			
FISTS Number	Name		
callsign	date	band	QTH

Beginner's Guide to the FISTS QSL Bureau

written by Stan K4UK

Basically the QSL Bureau works like this:

Pack up all your QSL cards you have for contacts with other FISTS members and send them to us. We sort the cards and put them in the SASE's (Self Addressed Stamped Envelopes) which the members have sent to us. When we get 6 to 7 cards we mail them. Various members of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club of Rocky Mount, VA assist me in the work of the QSL Bureau. Final sorting and mailing of envelopes is done by these members.

To get cards which are sent via the Bureau for you, you need SASE's on file with us. We suggest #10 business size envelope (4-1/8" x 9-1/2") which will work for nearly all QSL card sizes. The smaller personal size envelope (3-5/8" x 6-1/2") will work for most QSL cards, but there are some cards larger than 3-5/8" - especially some of the DX cards. Some of the fellows send 6" x 9" Kraft envelopes which can handle all cards sizes I've ever seen.

Your SASE should have at least a 32 cent stamp in upper right hand corner. Your address goes in the normal address portion of the envelope and put your call in large letters in the upper left hand corner. We suggest a minimum of three SASE's be sent. We will put a number in the lower left hand corner of each of your SASE's to indicate which envelope is being used. We will include a note when we have used your last envelope to send cards to you, and probably also will note on the rear flap - "Last Envelope in Bureau".

When you send in additional cards you can then send in additional SASE's. If we get a real bunch of cards for you, we may well put them all in the one envelope and add postage as required. We appreciate your sending additional postage with your next batch of cards if we do this.

Based on the weight of my QSL card the following postal rates apply per the scales in the Moneta Post Office:
1 ounce = 7 cards = 32 cents to mail; 2 ounces = 15 cards = 55 cents; 3 ounces = 23 cards = 78 cents

You can send QSL's for contacts with foreign FISTS members to us and we will forward them to Bob Lowe in England who handles the distribution of QSL cards for overseas DX. We handle cards for Canadian FISTS and other DX FISTS on this side of the Atlantic.

So, send us your QSL cards and some SASE's and you're set up to use the Bureau. It won't do any good to send cards for contacts with stations who are not FISTS members as they won't have SASE's on file with us. Also, it is a good idea to tell the FISTS station that you will QSL via the Bureau. In that way he will know that you have SASE's at the Bureau.

If you send in a "bunch" of cards it would be appreciated if you sort them by call number. It makes the initial sort go much faster. But, you don't have to further sort them alphabetically.

Special Note for Canadians and other DX using the Bureau:

Since all mail we send out from the Bureau must have U.S. postage stamps, you will have to put U.S. stamps on your SASE's. Since obtaining U.S. stamps may be hard, if not impossible, we suggest that you send SASE's (Self-Addressed-Envelopes) without stamps and some funds to cover the stamps we will obtain for you. Such funds can be "Green Stamps" or checks. If checks, please make them out to me, Stan Reas as my bank will not honor checks made out to FISTS QSL Bureau.

The cost of postage for mail from U.S. to Canada and Mexico is different from that within the states. Likewise the cost to other countries is different. Based on the weight of my QSL card the following rates would apply:

For Canada and Mexico :

Weight	Postage	Cards
.5 oun	46 cents	3
1 oun	52 cents	7
1.5 ounce	64 cents	11
2 ounces	72 cents	15
3 ounces	95 cents	23

For Other Countries:

Weight	Postage	Cards
.5 oz	60 cents	3
1 oz	\$1	7
1.5 oz	\$1.40	11
2 oz	\$1.80	15
2.5 oz	\$2.20	19
3 oz	\$2.60	23

Write YOUR callsign and previous callsign here	[32 cent stamp]
Your Name Your Street Address Your City, State, and Zip Code	

Sample of the front of the envelopes (SASE) you send to the Bureau

(suggest #10 size 4 1/4 x 9 1/4)

FIST AWARDS

These ruled apply to North American FISTS members only. Because of geographical differences, the DX FISTS have a slightly different set of rules.

Both the Century and Gold awards restrict claims to one contact only irrespective of bands. This means that should a member change his call sign and you have already worked him under his previous call, you may not use this as a new points claim.

Century Award (issued in North America)

This is the basic award and the requirements are 100 points on the following basis :

- 1 point per member on your own country
- 2 points per member in another country as defined by DXCC rules
- 3 points per contact with GOIPX (or any of its variants) or any other FISTS club call.

Applications should contain Call Name Date Band Location Fists Number.

Whilst GX0IPX or any of its variants count as three points, you may also claim for the operator on the same once-only basis as above. i.e. GX0IPX/P may be operated by GW0SGG. If you have not previously claimed this station, you may use this as a further point. However, if you also intend claiming for GX0IPX then you may not claim for GX0IPX/P. As from the 1 Jan 1998, supplementary Century awards will not be issued. Instead, you are encouraged to make a further 400 points (500 in total) for your Gold Award assuming that none of these contacts occur in your Century.

QRP Century Award (issued in North America)

Same rules as the basic Century Award, but your contacts must have been made using 5 watts or less

Two Way QRP Century Award (issued in North America)

Same rules as the basic Century Award, but your contacts must have been made with other FISTS who were transmitting with 5 watts or less while you were also using 5 watts or less.

Gold Award (issued in England)

Requirements are 500 points. As with Century awards contacts can be claimed ONCE ONLY and the points accrued for any Century award(s) previously claimed may be used. Applications direct to HQ with \$2 cash return postage.

Platinum Award (issued in England)

Requirements are to obtain 100 points using holders of the Century Award, strictly on a one point per FISTS number irrespective of location. Periodically, a list of Century award holders will be printed in Keynote or you may submit a SAE for a current update. Applications as with Gold.

On air, you ask the holder for his Century award number. In the case of members who hold more than one Century, you will be given the number of the first award and these numbers must be included in any claims for your Gold. In this way, duplication is avoided.

Worked All States/FISTS (issued in North America)

This award is earned by having two-way Morse contacts with a FISTS member in each of the 50 States. Submit logs with callsign, date, time, name, FISTS number, band and location.

Worked All States/FISTS QRP (issued in North America)

This award is earned by having two-way Morse contacts with FISTS members in each of the 50 States using 5 watts or less.

Elmer Award (Issued in England)

A certificate has been designed which will enable members to recognise and acknowledge the help and encouragement received from other stations whether FISTS members or not. When nominating, you are requested to include \$2 cash (US) to help offset the cost of printing and postage (which includes an A4 envelope and stiffener). The certificate can be mailed directly to the station nominated or to yourself for personal presentation or at a club meeting.

FISTS Worked All States

check one: Basic ☐

1-way QRP ☐

2-way QRP ☐

By signing here I swear that the contacts claimed below are legal, two way CW QSO's

Your FISTS # _____ Your callsign _____ Your address _____

STATE	CALL	NAME	FISTS #	Date	Band (CW)	QRP?
Alabama						
Alaska						
Arizona						
Arkansas						
California						
Colorado						
Connecticut						
Delaware						
Florida						
Georgia						
Hawaii						
Idaho						
Illinois						
Indiana						
Iowa						
Kansas						
Kentucky						
Louisiana						
Maine						
Maryland (D.C.)						
Massachusetts						
Michigan						
Minnesota						
Mississippi						
Missouri						
Montana						
Nebraska						
Nevada						
New Hampshire						
New Jersey						
New Mexico						
New York						
North Carolina						
North Dakota						
Ohio						
Oklahoma						
Oregon						
Pennsylvania						
Rhode Island						
South Carolina						
South Dakota						
Tennessee						
Texas						
Utah						
Vermont						
Virginia						
Washington						
West Virginia						
Wisconsin						
Wyoming						

FISTS CODE BUDDY APPLICATION

Mail to FISTS Code Buddy Coordinator:
John Cmiel, W9EM, 34020 N. Hickory Ave, Grayslake IL 60030
Email: w9em@aol.com

Your Name _____ Callsign _____

Your Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Your Daytime Phone Number _____ Evening _____ Fax _____

Your Email address _____

Your License Class _____ Your FISTS Number _____

Are you comfortable at (approximately):
_____ Under 5 WPM _____ 5 -10 WPM _____ 10-15 WPM
_____ 15-20 WPM _____ 20 - 25 WPM _____ 25-30 WPM
_____ 30-35 WPM _____ Above 35 WPM

Are you (check all that apply):

_____ Looking for a Code Buddy to help you improve?
_____ Looking to work with a Code Buddy to help them improve?
_____ Looking for a Code Buddy around the same level, for on the air practice?

Bands You Have Available: _____

Days & Times you are available to get on the air: _____

Special Interests (this helps match you with someone with common interests):

COMMENTS: _____

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING TO JOIN OUR FISTS CODE BUDDY PROGRAM

The International Morse Preservation Society

FISTS C.W. CLUB

Dear _____,

Because of your enjoyment of Morse code, you have been recommended for membership of the above club by _____. It is my great pleasure to enclose here- with the membership application form.

There has long been a demand for an organizations such as this not only to fill the void left by the declining numbers of ex-professional operators but to nurture the interests of those who are drawn to the mode but lack the operating skills. It's just these Amateurs who would otherwise be tempted to exchange the key for a microphone if the satisfactions and pleasure of Morse were to be denied them by a lack of opportunity. Such opportunity is rare when one is a beginner and the bands appear to be populated by c.w. signals which are well beyond their limited skills.

FISTS is peopled by those whose love of Morse has urged them on to encourage the beginner, to dispel those initial moments of fear and help them reach out for a joy known only to a small minority of Radio Amateurs.

A love of MORSE and a concern for its perpetuation are the only requisites for membership. There is no specific speed requirement and neither is membership of the RSGB, ARRL or other National body demanded. The aims of the club are:

**To further the use of Morse Code on the bands
To encourage the newcomer to the mode
To engender friendships within the membership**

You will appreciate that in order to effect these goals, the club must render itself open to the novice operator and have a healthy sprinkling of Veterans to encourage them.

Your subs are due on the anniversary of the month in which you joined. There will be approximately 12 newsletters per year which will depend largely on your own contributions and you are encouraged to offer comments and observations.

We have our own QSL bureau which distributes members cards to both North American and DX members. Members may also chose to adopt the club QSL card. In addition, we have a talking newsletter for those who are visually handicapped.

One of the greatest spin-offs of a club of this nature is the firm and lasting friendships which are a direct result of membership and consequent on-air contacts. You are encouraged not only to meet other members on the air but, if the opportunity is there, on a Social basis also. Should you wish to invite your current friends to join the club, you are at liberty to nominate them bearing in mind the criteria mentioned above.

We look forward to receiving your reply.

FISTS C.W. Club

Membership Application Form

_____/____
for office use only

Callsign _____ Name used on the Air _____

First and Last Name and Address:

The following info provides a synopsis of members' working conditions:

Rig(s) _____

Antennas _____

Other club affiliations (ARRL, RSGB, etc) _____

Other interests _____

Birthdate _____ Phone _____

Would you like to be contacted about receiving our "talking newsletter" on cassette tape for blind members? _____

Email address (if applicable) _____

Web page (if applicable) _____

Packet address (if applicable) _____

Date _____ Sponsor (recommended by) _____

Signature _____

Please enclose annual subs of \$15 (U.S. funds)

Please make checks out to FISTS CW club and return to:

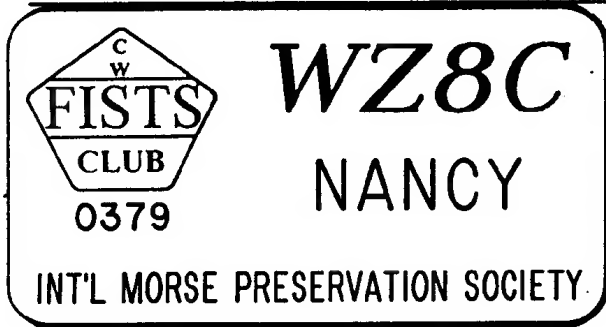
Nancy Kott WZ8C, POB 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047 USA

The Sign Man *of* Baton Rouge

Rick Pourciau - NV5A

nv5a@aol.com - www.thesignman.com

879 Castle Kirk Drive - Baton Rouge, La - 70808-6020 - 504-757-1545 - 1-888-HAMTAG1 (426-8241) - 504-766-9387 Fax



Custom name badges have been designed for our group. Order by e-mail, from the web site or complete this form and mail to:

The Sign Man *of* Baton Rouge
879 Castle Kirk Drive
Baton Rouge, La 70808-6020

Badge Information

Please type or print legibly

Call Sign _____ Line 1 on badge
First Name (*to appear on badge*) _____ Line 2 on badge
_____ INT'L MORSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY _____ Line 3 on badge
FISTS Membership Number _____ Under FISTS logo

Pricing Information (*all prices include postage*)

indicate choice below

Badge with safety locking pin	\$6.95	_____
Badge with over-the-pocket and safety locking pin	\$8.20	_____
Badge with military posts	\$7.70	_____
Badge with alligator clip	\$7.70	_____
Badge w/pin and alligator adapter (<i>may be worn as pin or clip</i>)	\$9.00	_____
Badge w/pin and Magnetic over-the-pocket (shielded magnets and pouch for business cards)	\$11.95	_____

Please ship my badge to: Full Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Telephone Number (____) _____

Payment made by check # _____ in the amount of \$ _____
Credit card number _____ Exp. Date _____
V MC Disc Amex Name on card _____
Signature _____

Allow 2 weeks for delivery. Payment must be included with order.

Thank You, We Appreciate Your Business !

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AREA SONG

I love to tune into the Area net and listen to that swing,
The op who is the NCS Can make that CW sing.

The music flows and the QTC builds As the stations QNI
But the NCS doesn't skip a beat, As you hear his fingers fly.

You know these ops are the best of the best
As he pairs them off to move, To QSY and pass the traffic,
While he stays right in the Groove.

The stations check back and the NCS sends them off again,
You know his sheet is in order, With the magic of his pen.

Twenty minutes have passed, the song has stopped,
The NCS has done his thing, Yes, I love to listen to the Area Net,
And listen to them sing.

Now the NCS sits in his chair, Thinking of what's been done,
He knows the traffic is on it's way, And tomorrow a new song will be sung.

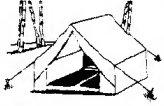

Sept. 11, 1997 by WB2EAG



Dedicated to Bud Hippispley, K2KIR
Net Manager EAN Cycle 3 & 4
and his NCS Staff

FISTS CW Club

June 1998

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
	¹	² <i>Slow traffic net 9pm EDT 3.682</i>	³ <i>Slow Ragchewing Group W8BI 8pm EDT 3.720</i>	⁴ <i>Slow traffic net 9pm EDT 3.682</i>	⁵	⁶ <i>Saturday QSO Group 7.058, 2300Z; 14.058 at 2000Z</i>																																																																																											
⁷ <i>Century Award Net 2000Z 14.058 Sunday Slow Speed Chat 21.158MHz at 1700Z</i>	⁸ <i>Tomorrow is the Deadline for Spring Sprint log submission</i>	⁹ <i>Slow traffic net 9pm EDT 3.682</i>	¹⁰ <i>Slow Ragchewing Group W8BI 8pm EDT 3.720</i>	¹¹ <i>Slow traffic net 9pm EDT 3.682</i>	¹²	¹³ <i>Saturday QSO Group 7.058, 2300Z; 14.058 at 2000Z WW S.Amer CW Contest 1200Z - 2100Z on the 14th</i>																																																																																											
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²⁸  Field Day	²⁹ <i>Write down your Field Day experiences and send them to WZ8C to share in the KeyNote!</i>	³⁰ <i>Slow traffic net 9pm EDT 3.682</i>	<div> <div>May</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div> <div>July</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>				S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
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Volunteer to work the CW tent during Field Day; CW QSO's are worth twice as many points as SSB!

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